

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 02721 181832Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/060 W

-----190502 098537 /12

R 181710Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2877

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 2721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE INTERRUPTS PCI-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATION AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ROME

REF: ROME 2589

1. SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO WHAT HAD BEEN FORESEEN IN REFTTEL, THE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME WERE STRONGLY REBUFFED AT THE FEB. 17 RALLY ORGANIZED BY THE CGIL-CONTROLLED SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY UNIONS. EXTREME LEFT GROUPS WHO WERE THE INITIAL GROUPS TO OCCUPY THE UNIVERSITY, THE SO-CALLED AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVES, REACTED VIOLENTLY TO THE DEMONSTRATION, FORCING CGIL PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS TO LEAVE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS UNDER POLICE ESCORT. LATER, FOLLOWING POLICE INTERVENTION TO REOPEN THE GATES OF THE UNIVERSITY AT THE REQUEST OF THE PCI-SUPPORTED RECTOR, STUDENTS FROM THE AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVES ASSEMBLED TO CRITICIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT ROLE IN THE SUPPRESSION OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE POLICE INTERVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. STUDENTS FROM THE AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVES OCCUPYING THE UNIVERSITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 02721 181832Z

OF ROME GATHERED THEIR FORCES FOR A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH THE PCI AT THE FEB. 17 MASS RALLY ORGANIZED BY THE CGIL-CONTROLLED UNIONS. LUCIANO LAMA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGIL AND KEY SPEAKER AT THE DEMONSTRATION, WAS INTERRUPTED REPEATEDLY DURING HIS TALK BY SHOUTS THAT THE UNIONS WERE DOING TO THE STUDENT MOVEMENT IN ITALY WHAT THE ARMED TANKS HAD DONE TO IT IN CHILE. IRONICALLY, LAMA CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS CALLING FOR STUDENT-WORKER

SOLIDARITY IN A PEACEFUL STRUGGLE FOR REFORM IN THE UNIVERSITY AND SOCIETY AMIDST A BARRAGE OF ROCKS AND WATER- AND PAINT-FILLED BALLOONS. MILITANT MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME LEFT "VIA DEI VOLSCI" COLLECTIVE CHOSE THAT MOMENT TO ATTACK POLICEMEN, STATIONED IN THE VICINITY FOR CROWD CONTROL PURPOSES, WITH IRON BARS, CLUBS, AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. TO INSURE THEIR SAFETY, THE POLICE ESCORTED A PROCESSION OF LAMA-SUPPORTED AND UNION MEMBERS, INCLUDING LAMA HIMSELF, FROM THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS. MILITANT MEMBERS OF ANOTHER EXTREME LEFT GROUP, AUTONOMIA OPERAIA, THEN BARRED THE ENTRANCES TO THE UNIVERSITY, THROWING STONES AT PCI-SUPPORTERS WHO HAD RE-GROUPED OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY GATES, AND REFUSING TO ALLOW PEOPLE WOUNDED IN THE EARLIER VIOLENCE TO LEAVE THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS IN AN AMBULANCE WHICH HAD ARRIVED FOR THAT PURPOSE. AT FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON THE POLICE, AT THE INVITATION OF THE PCI-SUPPORTED RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, FORCED THEIR WAY PAST THE CARS AMASSED AND SET AFIRE AS A BLOCKADE BY THE RETREATING AUTONOMIA OPERAIA. THE POLICE USED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE THE AUTONOMIA OPERAIA AND ITS SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE GATES. LATER THE AUTONOMIA OPERAIA AND OTHER SUPPORTERS FROM THE AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVES HELD AN ASSEMBLY DURING WHICH THEY CONDEMNED THE COMUNIST PARTY FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT ROLE IN THE SUPPRESSION OF THE MOVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE POLICE INTERVENTION. ALL TOGETHER SOME FIFTY PEOPLE WERE TREATED FOR INJURIES SUFFERED DURING THE RALLY AND COUNTER-PROTEST, BUT NO SERIOUS CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

3. COMMENT. A KEY FEATURE OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS THAT THE PCI HAS NOW FOUND ITSELF BRANDED A PARTY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT, AND WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY SOME ELEMENTS FOR THE ATTEMPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 02721 181832Z

SUPPRESSION OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT. THIS CANNOT HELP BUT BE A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE PCI LEADERSHIP AT A TIME IT IS CONFRONTED WITH OTHER POLITICAL DILEMMAS, AND THE PARTY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE TO THE COUNTER ATTACK QUICKLY, TRYING TO USE ITS SUPERIOR ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL ASSETS ON THE YOUTH FRONT. END COMMENT.

4. THE DISTURBANCES AT THE UNIVERSITY FEBRUARY 17, COINCIDED WITH A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DIRECTORATE MEETING AT WHICH THE PARTY LEADERSHIP APPROVED PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN GUN CONTROL, TO FACILITATE POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST TERRORIST HIDEOUTS OF BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT, AND TO ALLOW UNIONIZATION OF THE POLICE. THESE PUBLIC ORDER MEASURES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A CABINET MEETING ON FEBRUARY 18 AND WILL PROBABLY BE ISSUED AS DECREE LAWS. THE LATEST VIOLENCE, PLUS RECENT POLICE SUCCESSES AGAINST NOTED TERRORISTS, SHOULD INCREASE THE GOVERNMENT'S PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING EVENTUAL PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR ITS PROPOSALS.

5. ANSA REPORTS LATE FEBRUARY 18 THAT THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ROME HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL BE CLOSED
TO STUDENTS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.BEAUDRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMUNISTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME02721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0752
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770227/aaaaaxnb.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2957cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 2589
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3280342
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIOLENCE INTERRUPTS PCI-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2957cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009